

Thought for the day – Thursday 24th November 2022

By Revd John Marshall

Malcolm Guite Ode to Cecilia

Today 22nd November we remembered Cecilia a martyr and the patron Saint of Music. In Wandsworth the Church of England has St Cecilia's school, which focusses on the arts I believe.

You rested briefly here, Cecilia,
In this good ground, the roman catacomb.
Its rounded vaults are rich with sudden sound
As pilgrims hymn you through the darkened air
For you made music in your martyrdom,
Transposed the passion of your wedding night
To angel-given garlands, wreathed in light.
In all your three days dying you made room
For beautiful abundance, gifts and giving,
Your death was blessing and your passing praise,
As you gave way to grace,
Like music that still lives within its dying
And gives in giving place.

Cecilia, give way to grace again,
Transmute it into music for us all;
Music to stir and call the sleeping soul,
And set a counterpoint to all our pain,
To bless our senses in their very essence
And undergird our sorrow in good ground.
Music to summon undeserved abundance,
Unlooked-for over-brimming, rich and strong;

The unexpected plenitude of sound
Becoming song.

Parables and Paradox

Malcolm Guite is a poet, priest and musician.

As we remember Cecilia so we remember so many who have died for their
faith.